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**Testimony of Senator Jeff Plale  
Assembly Bill 483  
Assembly Committee on Labor  
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Thank you, Chairwoman Sinicki and members of the Committee, for your consideration of AB 483.

Recently, it was brought to my attention that current work permitting regulations for minors are at risk of hurting snow removal assistance programs for the elderly. Current Wisconsin law prohibits minors less than 14 years of age from working or obtaining a work permit. Although this law is subject to certain exemptions, current law would not allow minors under 14 to participate in these programs

Several charitable organizations in my district have had snow shoveling programs in place for a number of years. Their success is largely due to the involvement of 12 and 13 year olds. Organizers of snow shoveling programs find that young people in this age group are more reliable as older children are less likely to remain dedicated to the program.

This legislation creates a narrow exemption to work permitting regulations. It allows non-profit organizations to continue to operate successful snow shoveling programs-- programs that have proven to be an asset to a number of communities. Under this bill, a minor is allowed to be employed without a work permit by a non-profit organization in and around the home of an elderly person or a person with a disability to assist with snow shoveling or yard maintenance. Minimum wage requirements must still be met and parents must provide written consent for their children to participate.

Winter will soon be upon us and we are hoping for quick passage of this legislation to ensure that elderly citizens are not left without help they depend on to get through the long winter months. Passage of AB 483 will help continue valuable partnerships between charitable groups, youth, and the elderly in communities across Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

